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AT 177A BLEECKER STREET IN NEW YORK'S GREENWICH VILLAGE, THERE IS AN ODD LITTLE HOUSE.
IT SEEMS TO STAND APART FROM SURROUNDING BUILDINGS, AND ITS ARCHITECTURE IS WEIRD... EVEN FOR THE VILLAGE.
THIS IS THE HOME OF DR. STEPHEN STRANGE.
IN THE PAST WEEK IT HAS BECOME HIS REFUGE.
DOCTOR STRANGE HAS DWELT HERE MANY YEARS... LIVING APART FROM HIS FELLOW MEN, YET STILL LIVING IN THEIR MIDST.
NO LONGER A DOCTOR OF MEDICINE, DR. STRANGE HAS GROWN TO BECOME A MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS... THE GREATEST LIVING SORCERER ON EARTH!
YET, NONE OF THE ASTOUNDING MAGICAL FORCES AT HIS COMMAND CAN EASE THE HEARTACHE AND SORROW OF THIS ALL-TOO-HUMAN BEING.
"TO HAVE LOVED...AND LOST!"
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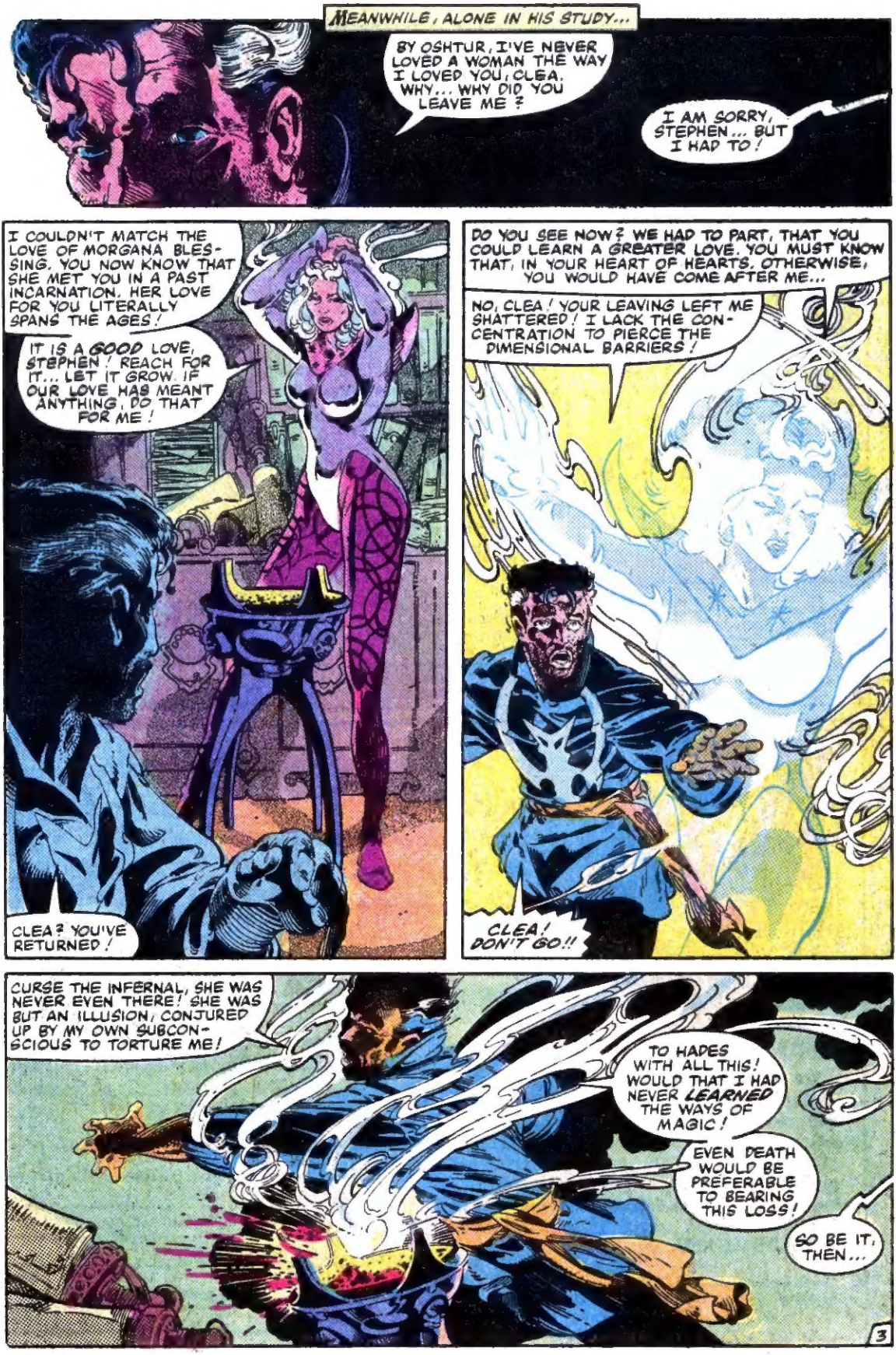
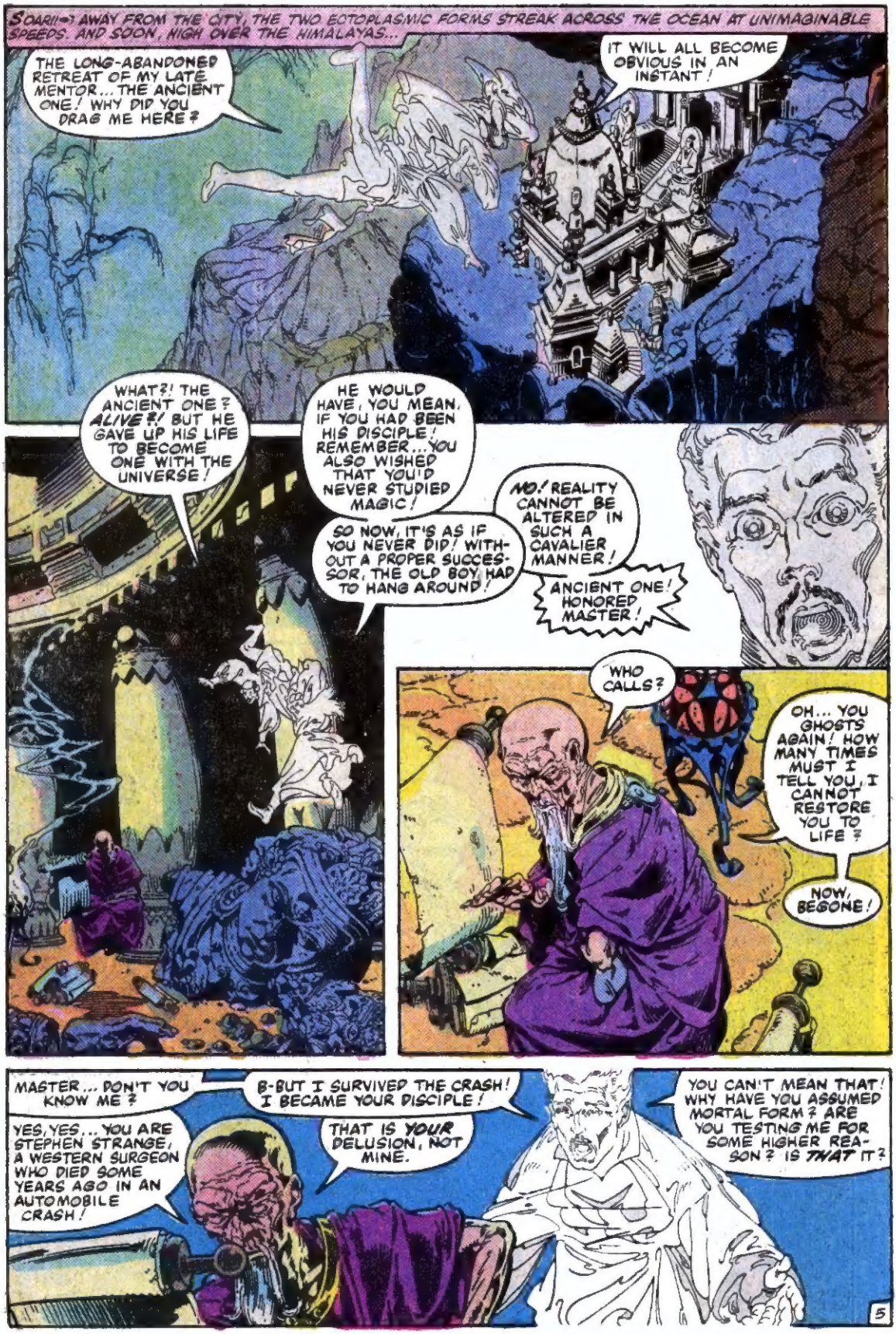
SO WITHDRAWN IS DR. STRANGE, THAT HE DOES NOT EVEN HEAR HIS MAN-SERVANT ENTER...
MASTER... YOU SHOULD EAT! IT HAS BEEN SEVEN DAYS...
I AM NOT HUNGRY, WONG.
AT LEAST, TAKE SOME TEA.
NO.
NO, THANK YOU.
I WISH TO BE ALONE.
IT IS NO USE, SARA. HE REFUSES EVERYTHING.
HIS GRIEF OVER CLEA'S DEPARTURE IS CONSUMING HIM. I'VE NEVER SEEN THE MASTER LIKE THIS.
IT IS ALMOST AS IF HIS SOUL HAD DIED.
OHHH! IF I'D KNOWN THIS WOULD HAPPEN, I WOULD'VE TRIED TO TALK CLEA OUT OF RETURNING TO HER HOME DIMENSION. BUT... SHE WAS SO ADAMANT!
SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE'D SEEN INTO THE SPIRIT OF ANOTHER WOMAN WHO LOVED STEPHEN MORE THAN SHE DID... AND THAT SHE COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE THAT LOVE DENIED HIM.
SO, SHE LEFT HIM... OUT OF LOVE. AND NOW, HER LEAVING IS DESTROYING HIM. WONG, I FEEL SO HELPLESS...
...ISN'T THERE SOME WAY WE CAN REACH HIM? I MAY BE STEPHEN'S BUSINESS MANAGER, BUT I'M ALSO HIS FRIEND. CAN'T WE DO SOMETHING... ANYTHING AT ALL?
I FEAR NOT. UNTIL HE ALLOWS US TO HELP HIM, WE ARE POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING... BUT PRAY.
2


MEANWHILE, ALONE IN HIS STUDY...
BY OSHTUR, I'VE NEVER LOVED A WOMAN THE WAY I LOVED YOU, CLEA. WHY... WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME?
I AM SORRY, STEPHEN... BUT I HAD TO!
I COULDN'T MATCH THE LOVE OF MORGANA BLESSING. YOU NOW KNOW THAT SHE MET YOU IN A PAST INCARNATION. HER LOVE FOR YOU LITERALLY SPANS THE AGES!
IT IS A GOOD LOVE, STEPHEN! REACH FOR IT... LET IT GROW. IF OUR LOVE HAS MEANT ANYTHING, DO THAT FOR ME!
CLEA? YOU'VE RETURNED!
DO YOU SEE NOW? WE HAD TO PART, THAT YOU COULD LEARN A GREATER LOVE. YOU MUST KNOW THAT, IN YOUR HEART OF HEARTS, OTHERWISE, YOU WOULD HAVE COME AFTER ME...
NO, CLEA! YOUR LEAVING LEFT ME SHATTERED! I LACK THE CONCENTRATION TO PIERCE THE DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS!
CLEA! DON'T GO!!
CURSE THE INFERNAL, SHE WAS NEVER EVEN THERE! SHE WAS BUT AN ILLUSION, CONJURED UP BY MY OWN SUBCONSCIOUS TO TORTURE ME!
TO HADES WITH ALL THIS! WOULD THAT I HAD NEVER LEARNED THE WAYS OF MAGIC!
EVEN DEATH WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO BEARING THIS LOSS!
SO BE IT, THEN...
3

...YOUR WISH, DR. STRANGE, IS -- HOW THEY SAY -- MY COMMAND!
WHO--?
GREETINGS FROM THE GREAT BEYOND! I AM DAKIMH THE ENCHANTER ... FOLLOWER OF ZHERED-NA, FORMER SORCERER OF SANPT, AND MAGE OF A DOZEN DIFFERENT REALMS!
NO, I AM NOT ANOTHER HALLUCINATION ... BUT I AM QUITE DEAD! IN MY PRESENT STATE, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL ME A SPIRIT SORCERER!
I AM AWARE OF WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO INVADE MY SANCTUM, UNBIDDEN?
NOW, NOW! DON'T BE CROSS! BESIDES, YOU SUMMONED ME HERE!
JUST NOW, YOU WISHED YOU WERE DEAD... AND SO, YOU ARE!
NATURALLY, I WAS DRAWN HERE TO BE A SORT OF SPIRIT GUIDE!
YOU ARE MAD! I'VE FACED DEATH COUNTLESS TIMES --
--AND I'M SURE I COULDN'T DIE JUST BY WISHING IT --
...SO?
Y-YOU PULLED MY ASTRAL FORM FREE FROM MY BODY! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IF YOU WERE ALIVE.
STILL DON'T BELIEVE ME? WELL, THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE -- DEATH TAKES SOME GETTING USED TO.
COME ALONG!


SOAR!!—AWAY FROM THE CITY, THE TWO ECTOPLASMIC FORMS STREAK ACROSS THE OCEAN AT UNIMAGINABLE SPEEDS. AND SOON, HIGH OVER THE HIMALAYAS...
THE LONG-ABANDONED RETREAT OF MY LATE MENTOR... THE ANCIENT ONE! WHY DID YOU DRAG ME HERE?
IT WILL ALL BECOME OBVIOUS IN AN INSTANT!
WHAT?! THE ANCIENT ONE? ALIVE?! BUT HE GAVE UP HIS LIFE TO BECOME ONE WITH THE UNIVERSE!
HE WOULD HAVE, YOU MEAN, IF YOU HAD BEEN HIS DISCIPLE! REMEMBER... YOU ALSO WISHED THAT YOU'D NEVER STUDIED MAGIC!
SO NOW, IT'S AS IF YOU NEVER DID! WITHOUT A PROPER SUCCESSOR, THE OLD BOY HAD TO HANG AROUND!
NO! REALITY CANNOT BE ALTERED IN SUCH A CAVALIER MANNER!
ANCIENT ONE! HONORED MASTER!
WHO CALLS?
OH... YOU GHOSTS AGAIN! HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU, I CANNOT RESTORE YOU TO LIFE?
NOW, BEGONE!
MASTER... DON'T YOU KNOW ME?
YES, YES... YOU ARE STEPHEN STRANGE, A WESTERN SURGEON WHO DIED SOME YEARS AGO IN AN AUTOMOBILE CRASH!
B-BUT I SURVIVED THE CRASH! I BECAME YOUR DISCIPLE!
THAT IS YOUR DELUSION, NOT MINE.
YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT! WHY HAVE YOU ASSUMED MORTAL FORM? ARE YOU TESTING ME FOR SOME HIGHER REASON? IS THAT IT?
5

BE STILL! I RESERVE TESTING FOR MY TRUE DISCIPLE -- BARON MORDO!
YES, MASTER?
MORDO, REMOVE THESE UNRULY SPIRITS! THEY'RE INTERFERING WITH MY STUDIES!
MORDO?! MY HATED ENEMY IS STILL THE ANCIENT ONE'S DISCIPLE?
NO!
NO, THIS IS--
--MADNESS!!
OF COURSE, IT'S MADNESS...
...I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET THAT THROUGH TO YOU FOR WEEKS! THE FACT THAT YOU'VE REALIZED IT IS THE FIRST STEP ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY!
YOU ORDERLIES CAN REMOVE THE STRAIGHT-JACKET NOW!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, DOC KEEM -- YOU'RE THE PSYCHIATRIST!
SARA? WONG?! WHAT ON EARTH--?!
EASY THERE, FELLA! WE'LL HAVE YOU OUTTA THIS L'IL OVERCOAT IN NO TIME!
WONG? DON'T YOU KNOW ME? I'M DR. STRANGE!
SUUURRRE, YOU ARE! LOOKIE -- DOCTOR KEEM'S BROUGHT YOUR... AH... CAPE AN' AMULET! WHY DON'T YOU PUT 'EM ON? I THINK HE WANTS TO TAKE YOU OUT AN' SHOW YOU SOMETHING!
6

AND SOON...
THIS BOOK RECOUNTS MY FIRST BATTLE WITH DORMAMMU... IN DETAIL!
YES, THAT'S THE FIRST NOVEL... STILL THE BEST, I THINK!
STRANGE
NOW DO YOU SEE, "STEPHEN?"
IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR VERY DEPRESSED PEOPLE TO LET THEIR FANTASIES RUN AWAY WITH THEM...
... TO BELIEVE THEY ARE A MOVIE STAR OR A FICTIONAL CHARACTER. I MUST SAY, YOU PICKED A VERY POPULAR ROLE MODEL!
RUBBISH! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, KEEM--BUT IT WON'T WORK!
HEY, COME BACK!
THIS IS AN ELABORATE CHARADE--THE MOST CONVINCING ONE I'VE EVER SEEN... BUT IT'S ONLY AN ILLUSION.
BY IKONN, IT MUST BE!
I'LL RETURN TO MY SANCTUM! THERE, I SHOULD FIND THE ANSWERS TO ALL THIS!
STERNS
STERNS
BUT STEPHEN'S LEAP CARRIES HIM ONLY A FEW FEET INTO THE AIR.
HIS CLOAK OF LEVITATION--IF, INDEED THAT'S WHAT IT EVER WAS--FAILS TO LIFT HIM HIGHER.
BOONGG
7

AAGGHH! I NEARLY BROKE MY CLAVICLE! I DON'T KNOW HOW DAKIMH NEGATED MY CLOAK'S POWER, BUT HE ... EH?
BY...THE...VISHANTI!! NO!!
FROM WHERE HE LIES, SPRAWLED ON THE PAVEMENT, DR. STRANGE'S GAZE IS DRAWN ACROSS THE STREET.
THE SIGHT CHILLS HIS SOUL.
CADENCE
DOCTOR STRANGE II
BEYOND RAGGADORR!
CAMMERON POWELL
HEY, GUYS--LOOK!!
IT'S HIM!!
CAMMERON POWELL--THE GUY WHO PLAYS DOC STRANGE--RIGHT HERE, IN PERSON!
GET HIS AUTOGRAPH!
SERAPHIM SAVE ME!

WHERE'D HE GO?
DOWN THIS ALLEY! HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR!
MAN, DIDJA SEE THAT CAPE?
YEAH, I WANNA PIECE OF IT!
I HID MYSELF JUST IN TIME!
ONCE THOSE LITTLE FANATICS ARE GONE, I'LL...
I'LL DRIVE, IF YOU DON'T MIND!
EH? WHAT?!
OH, I'M SORRY! WERE YOU HAVING ANOTHER PSYCHOTIC HALLUCINATION?
WELL, NO MATTER! I THINK I KNOW A WAY TO CONVINCE YOU THAT DR. STRANGE IS JUST A FANTASY!
SHORTLY, AFTER A QUICK DRIVE DOWNTOWN...
HE HAS THE NERVE TO BRING ME HERE... TO MY SANCTUM SANCTORUM!
BEAUTIFUL OLD PLACE, ISN'T IT?
TRUE, THE DESIGN IS A LITTLE ECCENTRIC, BUT SO ARE THE MEN WHO WORK HERE!
9

INSIDE...
"STEPHEN", I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET TED TEVOSKI AND LES TANE! LES, OF COURSE, WRITES THE DR. STRANGE BOOKS... AND TED ILLUSTRATES THEM!
GENTLEMEN, THIS MAN CLAIMS TO BE DR. STEPHEN STRANGE!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, DOCTOR... WHA--?
WELL, EFFENDI, TED AND I ARE TRULY FLATTERED... AND, BY GOLLY, THERE IS A REMARKABLE RESEMBLANCE... BUT YOU HAVE TO GET HOLD OF YOURSELF!
OL' DOC IS JUST A CHARACTER OUT OF OUR IMAGINATIONS!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
SAY, YOU LOOK GOOD IN THESE DUDS -- EVEN BETTER THAN CAMMERON POWELL!
HIS MUSTACHE IS TOO SHORT!
EUREKA! TED, OUR FRIEND HERE HAS JUST GIVEN ME A PLOT IDEA FOR THAT DOC STRANGE COMIC STRIP YOU WANT TO DRAW!
WE OPEN WITH DOC IN A HOSPITAL ... AND EVERYONE TRYING TO CONVINCE HIM THAT HE'S CRAZY!
UH... NO OFFENSE, FELLA!
NO!!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! NONE OF THIS IS REAL!!
AAA
10

BLESSED OSHTUR!
THEY... THEY WEREN'T REAL!
AH, AT LAST YOU BEGIN TO SENSE THE ANSWER!
DAKIMH!
...OR "DOC KEEM" OR WHATEVER YOU WISH! "A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME", AS YOUR BELOVED BARD WOULD SAY!
I'M SURE THAT A LOVER OF SHAKESPEARE, SUCH AS YOURSELF, RECALLS THE LINE THAT "ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE..."
WELL, IN YOUR CASE IT'S QUITE LITERALLY TRUE...
STRIKE THE SET, BOYS!
OKAY, BOSS!
SCENE 5
YOU SEE, AS A SORCERER, YOU'VE CONTINUALLY DEALT WITH OTHER WORLDS AND DIMENSIONS...
...WITH THE UNREAL, AS OPPOSED TO THE REAL. IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT THERE'S NO LONGER ANYTHING REAL IN YOUR LIFE!
YOU STILL LOOK DOUBTFUL! COME, I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU--
"--OUTSIDE!
"LOOK WHO WE HAVE HERE... FOUR OF YOUR FELLOW-- AH-- DEFENDERS, I BELIEVE THEY'RE CALLED!
"FIRST THERE'S DAMION HELLSTROM... THE ALLEGED SON OF A MYTHIC DEVIL!
"AND PATSY WALKER... FORMER CHILD-MODEL, TURNED HELLCAT!"
'LO!
"NEXT IS BRUNNHILDE, AN ASGARDIAN VALKYRIE, FORMERLY IN THE SERVICE OF THE GODLING ODIN!
"AND FINALLY ISAAC CHRISTIANS... ONCE THE MAYOR OF A SMALL TOWN IN VIRGINIA, NOW TRANSFORMED INTO A NEARLY INDESTRUCTIBLE GARGOYLE!"

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE YOU ASSOCIATE WITH? CAN YOU HONESTLY CALL ANY OF THEM REAL?!?
WHAT? BY FRIGAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
POIT
VALKYRIE! NO!
YES, STEPHEN, YES! NOTHING IS REAL! NOT YOUR FRIENDS... AND CERTAINLY NOT THAT ABSURD HOUSE!
MY HOUSE?! MY ...SANCTUM SANCTORUM?
DON'T YOU WORRY NONE, DOCTOR STRANGE, SIR! WE'LL TAKE REAL GOOD CARE OF IT!
ACTUALLY, WE'LL TAKE UNREAL GOOD CARE OF IT!
OH, DAIMIE, YOU'RE SUCH A CARD! BYE, DOC!
MY HOME... THE CITY... THE WORLD... ALL OF IT GONE! NOTHING REMAINS BUT AN UNENDING VOID!
JUST BLANKNESS AND DARKNESS, STEPHEN! ALL IS UNREALITY. WHY, YOU EVEN LET YOURSELF LOVE A WOMAN WHO WAS UNREAL!
CLEA, TOO? CLEA WAS NEVER REAL?

NOW YOU UNDERSTAND, THE ONLY THING THAT'S REAL IN ALL OF EXISTENCE IS YOU, DOCTOR STRANGE!
EVEN I AM BUT A FIGMENT OF YOUR FEVERED IMAGINATION!
SOON, I WILL BE GONE, AND YOU WILL BE ALONE... ALONE FOR ALL OF ETERNITY!
NO! NO, I COULDN'T STAND THAT! THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER WAY... SOME CURE FOR THIS UNREAL STATE!
NO CURE, DOCTOR... BUT THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE!
YOU CAN JOIN US ALL IN UNREALITY!
ONE SIMPLE THRUST OF THIS SILVER DAGGER, AND YOU SHALL NEVER KNOW LONLINESS AGAIN!
YOU MEAN...
ONE THRUST AND YOU'LL REGAIN A WORLD!
ONE THRUST, AND LOST LOVE WILL RETURN!
JUST... ONE... THRUST..
NEVER!
I REFUSE TO BELIEVE ANY OF THIS! I REJECT DEATH... I REJECT MADNESS...
...I REJECT DESPAIR!!
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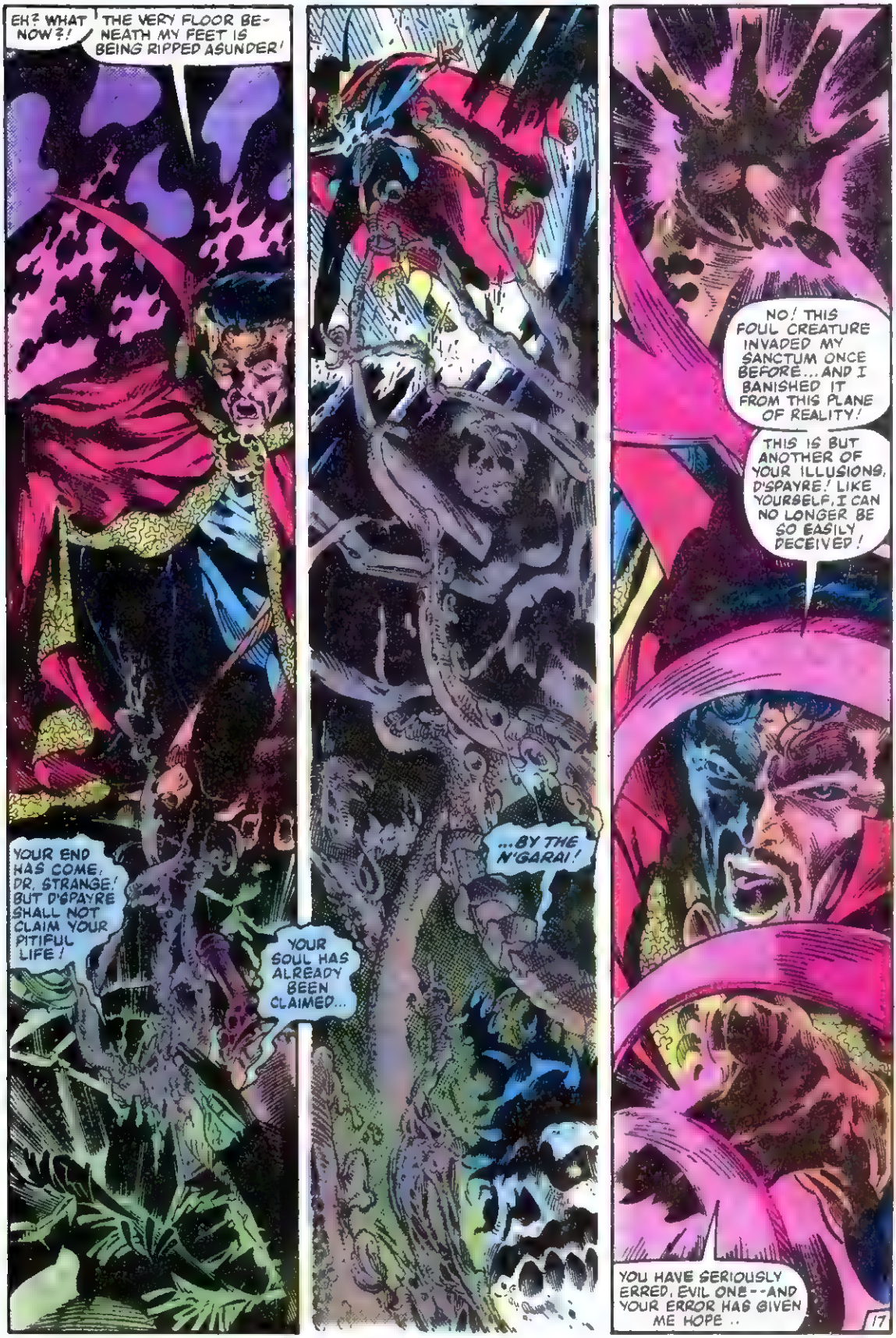
NO!
YOU'VE BROKEN THROUGH MY SPHERES OF ILLUSION WITH A SINGLE SPELL!
NO ONE HAS EVER DONE THAT BEFORE! NO ONE HAS EVER MYSTICALLY DISPELLED MY POWER...
...THE POWER OF D'SPAYRE!
D'SPAYRE! OF COURSE, THE LEGENDARY DESTROYER OF HOPES! YOU DARED TRY TO DECEIVE ME, DEMON? HERE... IN MY OWN HOME?!?
AYE! AND I HAD YOU BELIEVING MY LIES -- DON'T DENY IT!
YOU BELIEVED WE'D ACTUALLY LEFT THIS CHAMBER! BUT THAT IS OF NO MATTER NOW!

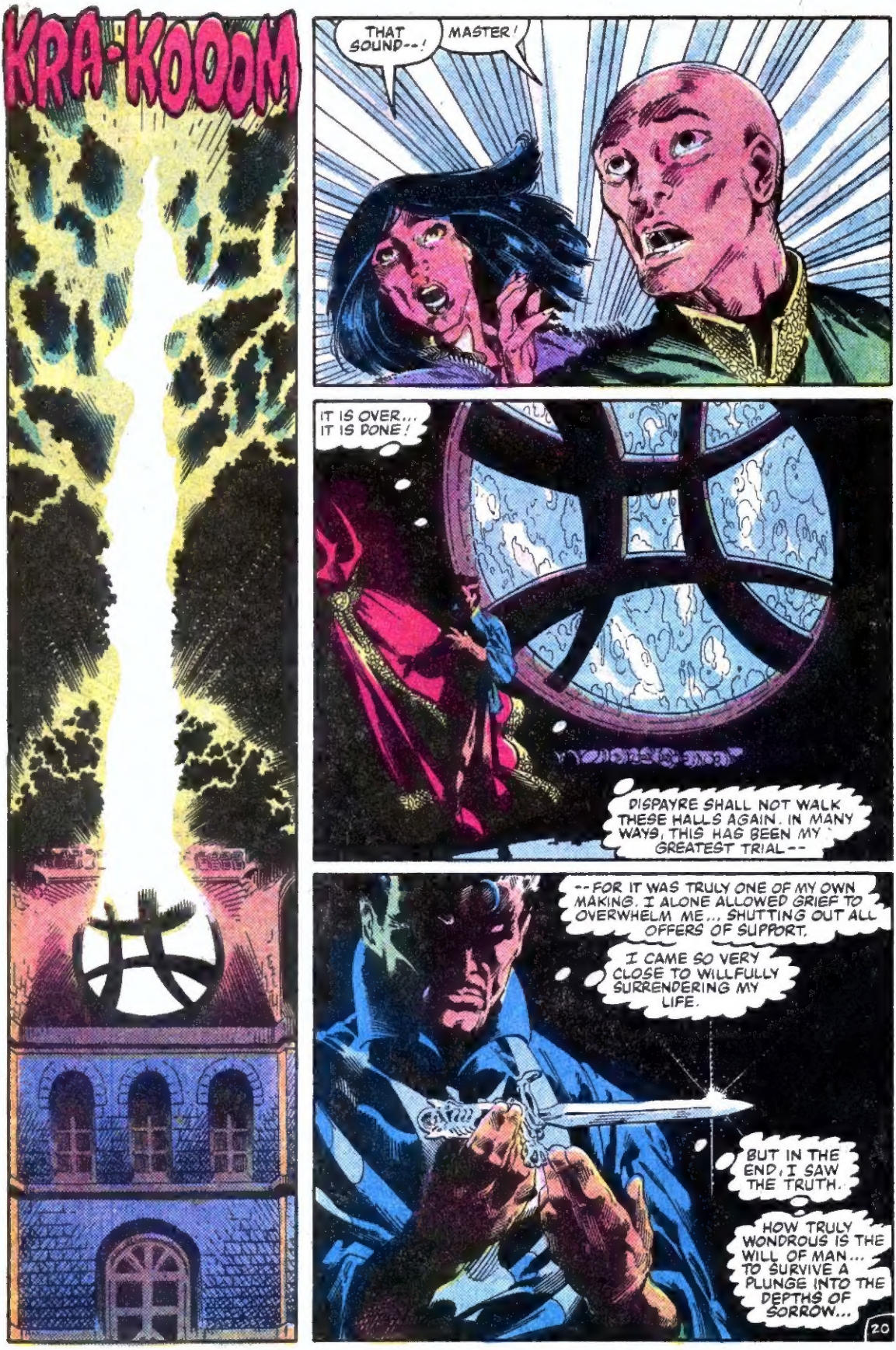
I SHALL OVERPOWER YOU YET... YOU LOVE-SICK FOOL!
HAH! I SENSED YOUR ANGUISH ACROSS A DOZEN DIMENSIONAL REALMS! IN YOUR CURRENT STATE, YOU ARE HELPLESS BEFORE MY POWER!
AGGH! THE BRAZIER!
HE CAUSED IT TO ERUPT WITH BUT A GESTURE! I FEAR HE MAY MAKE TRUE HIS BOAST! THE SPELL OF BANISHMENT, WHICH DISPERSED HIS ILLUSIONS, HAS LEFT ME DRAINED!
I MUST CONCENTRATE... PULL MYSELF TOGETHER...OR ALL WILL BE LOST!
GIVE UP, STRANGE --THERE IS NO HOPE LEFT!
TO KNOW THE TOUCH OF D'SPAYRE IS TO KNOW FEAR!
EEYAAHH!
GOOD HEAVENS!
THAT SCREAM CAME FROM UPSTAIRS! COULD THAT HAVE BEEN--
"--DOCTOR STRANGE?!"
AWAY! K-KEEP AWAY FROM ME! D-D-DON'T TOUCH ME AGAIN!
SO FALLS THE MIGHTY SORCERER SUPREME... COWERING LIKE A LITTLE BOY BEFORE THE BOGEY MAN!
ALL THAT POWER, AND YOU CANNOT CONTROL EVEN THE TINIEST BIT TO USE AGAINST ME! BUT I SHALL MAKE USE OF IT... OH, YES!

WONG, WHAT'S GOING ON?
I DO NOT KNOW, SARA. I HAVE NEVER HEARD THE MASTER IN SUCH AGONY BEFORE. IF HE TRIES TO USE HIS MAGICS IN THAT STATE--
--I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN!
NEVER KNEW... SO GREAT A FEAR! BLESSED VISHANTI, LET THE ILLUSIONS OF IKONN CONFUSE MY FOE!
I MUST STALL FOR TIME... TO MARSHALL MY WILL AGAINST THIS DEMON!
YOU ALMOST IMPRESS ME, SORCERER! FEW HAVE EVER RECOVERED FROM MY TOUCH OF FEAR!
YOU'LL GAIN NO ADVANTAGE WITH ILLUSIONS, THOUGH! D'SPAYRE IS THE OVERLORD OF SUCH DECEPTIONS!
BY HOGGOTH, HIS ELDRITCH BOLT OVERPOWERED MY CONCENTRATION, OBLITERATING MY FALSE IMAGES BEFORE I COULD DEVISE THE PROPER DEFENSE.
MY CLOAK SAVED ME FROM THE WORST OF THE BOLT, BUT STILL I AM LEFT CHILLED TO THE DEPTHS OF MY SOUL.


EH? WHAT NOW?!
THE VERY FLOOR BENEATH MY FEET IS BEING RIPPED ASUNDER!
YOUR END HAS COME, DR. STRANGE! BUT D'SPAYRE SHALL NOT CLAIM YOUR PITIFUL LIFE!
YOUR SOUL HAS ALREADY BEEN CLAIMED...
...BY THE N'GARAI!
NO! THIS FOUL CREATURE INVADED MY SANCTUM ONCE BEFORE... AND I BANISHED IT FROM THIS PLANE OF REALITY!
THIS IS BUT ANOTHER OF YOUR ILLUSIONS, D'SPAYRE! LIKE YOURSELF, I CAN NO LONGER BE SO EASILY DECEIVED!
YOU HAVE SERIOUSLY ERRED, EVIL ONE--AND YOUR ERROR HAS GIVEN ME HOPE..
17

...HOPE OF VICTORY!
SEVEN RINGS HAS RAGGADORR, INDIGO TO DEEPEST BLACK, BUT OSHTUR GRANT ME SOMETHING MORE --
"--THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORAK!!"
YOU CANNOT HOLD ME THUS FOREVER, STRANGE! YOU ARE MORTAL, WHILE D'SPAYRE IS AS ENDURING AS LIFE ITSELF!
I CANNOT BE DESTROYED!
THAT MAY BE, DEMON, BUT YOU CAN BE RESISTED! SO LONG AS A MAN CAN FACE HIS DEEPEST FEARS... SO LONG AS HE POSSESSES THE SLIGHTEST SHRED OF HOPE...
...THEN CAN HE OVERCOME HIS DESPAIR!
WONG, THE WHOLE HOUSE IS SHAKING... THROBBING! WHAT--?!
NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR QUESTIONS, SARA. NOW IS THE TIME FOR HASTE!

STEPHEN! STEPHEN, YOU MUST STOP!
?!?
CLEA?
D'SPAYRE HAS DRAWN ME HERE FROM THE DARK DIMENSION!
HE'S TRAPPED ME IN HIS STEAD. IF YOU CAN'T STOP THE BANDS FROM CLOSING IN, I SHALL BE CRUSHED!
SURELY, D'SPAYRE, THIS IS THE LOWEST OF YOUR ILLUSORY TRICKS. HAD YOU SO DISGUISED YOURSELF BUT AN HOUR AGO, YOUR PLOY MIGHT WELL HAVE WORKED.
NOT NOW.
NOW, I HAVE AT LAST COME TO TERMS WITH MY GRIEF.
STRANGE... NO!!
CLOSE TIGHT, YE BANDS OF CYTTORAK, AND HEAR ME, HOSTS SO CLANNISH, THAT BY THE WILL OF DR. STRANGE MAY THIS D'SPAYRE NOW VANISH!


KRA-KOOOM
THAT SOUND--!
MASTER!
IT IS OVER... IT IS DONE!
DISPAYRE SHALL NOT WALK THESE HALLS AGAIN. IN MANY WAYS, THIS HAS BEEN MY GREATEST TRIAL--
--FOR IT WAS TRULY ONE OF MY OWN MAKING. I ALONE ALLOWED GRIEF TO OVERWHELM ME... SHUTTING OUT ALL OFFERS OF SUPPORT.
I CAME SO VERY CLOSE TO WILLFULLY SURRENDERING MY LIFE.
BUT IN THE END, I SAW THE TRUTH.
HOW TRULY WONDROUS IS THE WILL OF MAN... TO SURVIVE A PLUNGE INTO THE DEPTHS OF SORROW...
20

...TO STILL FIND THE STRENGTH TO REFUSE DEATH!
AH... FORGIVE US, MASTER, BUT WE HEARD A SHOUT AND--!
SHOUT, MY FOOT!
IT WAS A SCREAM! AND THEN THERE WAS THAT HORRIFIC THUNDERCLAP! I'M SURPRISED TO FIND THIS PLACE STILL STANDING!
DOC, IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
WONG, I THINK I'D LIKE SOMETHING TO EAT NOW!
ALL... RIGHT... SARA?
PERHAPS. PERHAPS NOT.
BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT THINGS WILL GET BETTER.
AT ONCE, MASTER!
END